LAAC: Weekly Leadership Update
January 11, 2019

Myrna Castrejón officially started at CCSA this week.

Luis Figueroa joined the LA RA team this week and immediately got to work supporting strike efforts. Once we get through the strike, we will be reassessing team leads on workstreams. Stay tuned!

Agenda
Questions in YELLOW

1. **North Star: Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements**
    - No new questions – we expect District movement on this priority to be stalled over the next two weeks. Updates below.
2. **North Star: Renewal Criteria & Performance Framework**
    - No new questions. We expect District movement on this priority to be stalled over the next two weeks. Updates below.
3. **North Star: Authorizing Policy & Oversight**
    - No new questions. Updates below.
4. **North Star: BD5 Representation**
    - No new questions. Updates below.
5. **Sub-Priority: Locally-Led Legislative Advocacy**
    - No new questions: updates below.
6. **Sub-Priority: Strike Preparedness**
    - Next week, along with supporting members and rolling up data on strike activity, we plan to track any hostile incidents directed towards charter students, families, and staff, including any video/photo footage. We could use this information to publicly push back on the strike or through backchannels to put pressure on UTLA to shorten the length of the strike. What concerns, if any, do you have with this strategy?
7. **Ad Hoc Sub-Priority: Charter Community CAO Supports**
    - No new questions.
8. **Ad Hoc Sub-Priority: Enrollment Committee**
    - We would like to convene this group after the strike.
9. **Ad Hoc Sub-Priority: LAAC Leadership Transition**
    - Can we put time on the calendar with Myrna to discuss? What upcoming day(s) and time(s) work best for you?
10. **Additional Updates:**
    - LAAC January Meeting and Step-Back
        - Recommendation: Given that a UTLA strike is near certain to begin on Monday, January 14, and last from 2-4 days, we suggest postponing next week's LAAC meeting and step-back currently scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 10am-1pm.
            - Do you agree that we should briefly postpone the January meeting?
            - If so, on what date should we reschedule the January meeting?
                - Options include: January 23, 25, 28, 29, 30, or 31 (Note: January 22 is Back to Session in Sacramento and the next LAAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14.)
            - Should we invite Myrna and Gregory to the meeting?

- What topics would you like to set for discussion/review at the meeting?
  - Suggested topics included:
    i. Post-strike landscape and plans
    ii. Macro-Political Environment/BD5 Election
    iii. Re-Imagining L.A. Unified Plan
    iv. LAAC Leadership Transition
    v. Enrollment Challenges
    vi. Renewal criteria
    vii. April meeting moved to Sacramento?

Pre-Reading

North Star: Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements

Create a formal and sustainable system for long-term facilities use agreements between LAUSD and charter schools beginning in the 2019-20 school year, where long-term is defined to be petition co-terminus or longer, by establishing a clear change in facilities policy.

- **Current Strategy:**
  - Our strategy is to maximize opportunities aligned with LAUSD leadership (e.g., Superintendent Beutner and Board Vice President Melvoin) and their facilities-related priorities. In doing so, we will strategically challenge the District's assertion that long-term facilities use agreements are legally untenable under Prop 39 while expeditiously pursuing other viable paths toward implementing multi-year agreements.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
  - We learned that Los Angeles City Controller, Ron Galperin, had a preliminary discussion with CCSA's Senior Vice President of Civic Affairs, Gregory McGinity, about the status of remaining Measure Q bond funds with an intent to determine how LAUSD's School Construction Bond Oversight Committee might better utilize the funds, including for charter purposes. CCSA's Legal (Ricardo Soto) and Facilities (Ebony Wheaton) will discuss further with Gregory and facilitate a possible meeting with CCSA, the Controller, and BOC members Mike Keeley and Karen Krieger (the Controller's appointee to the BOC.)
  - We compiled enrollment data for LAUSD-authorized charter schools for SY 2012-13 to 2017-18 and will merge with data submitted to the Office of the Board Vice President, Nick Melvoin, to help inform their thinking around multi-year and/or expedited Prop 39 pilot programs. We will add context around petition/location capacity. As noted earlier, BD4 shared that they have begun work on "test" cases with CWC Hollywood, Ocean, and APEX to lock-in their current co-location footprints for the next ~18 months.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
  - We will continue to work on the additional data requested by BD4 and position for a discussion and meeting as soon as the strike is resolved and building upon BD4's emphasis on this priority.
- **Working Group Updates:**
  - No updates.

North Star: Renewal Criteria & Performance Framework

LAAC: Weekly Leadership Update
January 11, 2019

In the absence of updated statewide criteria, secure LAUSD charter renewal criteria that prioritizes student academic outcomes and – only when necessary – considers multiple measures but does not substitute academic achievement with non-academic outcome measures of limited value.
Secure a performance framework that lays the foundation for system-wide school improvement through a similar focus on student academic achievement. At a minimum, charter renewal criteria will remain protected as LAUSD adopts a performance framework for all public schools.

- **Current Strategy:**
  - We will continue to document the need for consistent feedback and pushback on unreasonable benchmarks at CSD and with Board Members. We will influence the performance framework through District working groups, direct conversations with the superintendent's team, and with our Board members to ensure that academic outcomes are the core of any performance framework that influences renewal.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
  - Three schools were approved with benchmarks consistent with what we have seen previously.
  - Given the UTLA strike, there was no movement on policy. We continue to monitor discussions of the Superintendent's Reimagining proposals as part of strike negotiations.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
  - No major updates planned.
- **Working Group Updates:**
  - No new updates.

North Star: Authorizing Policy & Oversight

Fundamentally improve the authorization and oversight experience for LA charter schools and the relationship between authorizer and charter schools in LA by securing structural reforms at LAUSD. In addition, continue to monitor OIG activity as it relates to LAUSD authorized charter schools.

- **Current Strategy:**
  - Our strategy is to build the case that CSD fails to efficiently and competently implement existing authorization and oversight policy and support a call for systemic structural and personnel within CSD.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
  - We learned that CSD is cancelling all charter oversight visits schedule for the month of January due to the strike and anticipated staffing shortages and reduced capacity. LAUSD also postponed its remaining "Re-Imagining L.A. Unified" town hall tour dates on January 8, 9, 10, and 12, due to the pending strike. Following resolution of the strike, we will evaluate the landscape and return to grass top efforts, particularly with the Superintendent's office, to explore opportunities to strategically re-position the District's Charter School Division within LAUSD.
  - We supported grass top efforts to ensure that board members and the superintendent understood the comprehensiveness and rigor of LAUSD's charter oversight process and to hopefully minimize charter issue discussion and negotiation at the UTLA/LAUSD bargaining table this week.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
  - _____.
- Working Group Updates:

- No new updates.

North Star: BD5 Representation

Maintain a kids-first local authorizing environment by securing: 1) interim appointment of a representative who supports the Superintendent and aligned board members; and 2) A special election primary in March; 3) LAAC alignment with a PAC.

- **Current Strategy:**
  - LA RA is working with CCSA's Civic Affairs, Operations, and Organizing teams to prepare for the March 5 primary election.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
  - Last week, CCSA opened two organizing offices in the Southeast cities and held kickoff canvassing events for parents. C3 campaign events will continue this week with phone banks and canvasses. LA RA will revisit our strategy for engagement at the conclusion of the strike.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
  - We are pausing all candidate cultivation/school visits until the resolution of the strike, but we continue to plan candidate cultivation efforts. We will build out the basis for the school-level event plan in advance of the January LAAC step-back, but we will largely hold off on intensive planning and operationalizing until the conclusion of the strike.
- **PAC Updates:**
  - N/A

Sub-Priority: Locally-Led Legislative Advocacy

Influence CCSA's legislative agenda so it aligns with issues that matter to our local membership.

- **Current Strategy:**
  - Build local influence over CCSA legislative advocacy priorities in advance of legislative session through direct engagement of LAAC and broader charter community.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
  - Superintendent Beutner called for Governor Newsom to engage in the strike negotiations. We'll monitor the possibility of this leading to statewide action to address charter school issues. We will need to consider local and statewide responses to any movement here in the context of UTLA negotiations.
  - FYI: Governor Newsom released his January budget proposal yesterday. It includes a 3% COLA for LCFF (the basis for the District's increase in offer to UTLA); flat funding for SB 740 reimbursement; and a promise to "improve" charter school accountability and transparency, likely in a subsequent budget trailer bill as early as Monday.
- **What's Happening Next Week?**
  - We'll continue to engage in and monitor how the UTLA strike could impact approved legislation.
  - We will finalize the list of LA charter schools attending Back to Session event and share.

Sub-Priority: Strike Preparedness

Maintain a kids-first local authorizing environment by securing: 1) interim appointment of a representative who supports the Superintendent and aligned board members; and 2) A special election primary in March; 3) LAAC alignment with a PAC.

LAAC: Weekly Leadership Update
January 11, 2019

- **Current Strategy:**
  - LA RA is monitoring negotiations while helping schools answer operations questions to stay open during a strike.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
  - Last week, all members of the LA RA team took part in strike preparations consistent with the following goals:
    - **Keep charters from being bargained –** Throughout the week, we tracked UTLA rhetoric, watched developments in negotiations, and held conversations with board offices to determine whether and how charters would be a part of bargaining. In what was partially an effort to provide the Superintendent with support and build good will, Myrna released her open letter to Alex Caputo Pearl. Following the letter's release, we received word from the Superintendent's office affirming that nothing new implicating charters would be on the table.
    - **Keep school operations from being disrupted and kids in schools –** by monitoring UTLA communications with parents and members, we learned more about the ways that we expect the union to act during the strike. We notified members accordingly to contingency plan around known UTLA tactics that could disrupt school operations, modified our member resources accordingly, and raised school-specific concerns when appropriate with LAUSD.
    - **Communicate on behalf of the broader movement –** we worked with CCSA communications at the front end of the week to prepare an array of fact sheets and resources to preempt media questions about the strike, allowing us to effectively handle multiple communications requests per day. We then were able to answer new questions coming from reporters, push back on problematic stories, create minimal new copy when needed, and develop proactive communications (like Myrna's letter).
- **What's Happening Next Week?**
  - Next week, we will be on call starting at 6 AM to troubleshoot member logistical questions during the strike. During the strike, we will continue to monitor the state of negotiations and will roll up data on strike incidents daily to develop a comprehensive picture of which schools are affected and how. We additionally plan to collect reports and pictures/video of any hostile actions that are directed toward charter students, parents, or staff. We will continue to hold 5 PM member calls and disseminate communications until the conclusion of the strike.

Additional Updates

Enrollment

- No new updates.

PCNR:

- **ICEF Inglewood MS:**

- ICEF appears to have submitted its renewal petition to Inglewood Unified, but it does not appear that they will make the January 16, 2019 agenda for their petition vote. It is likely that the petition will be voted upon at the February 20, 2019 board meeting.
- ICEF shared with us their overall advocacy strategy, which includes a focus on the holistic student, family, and community supports they have implemented in conjunction with programmatic support from Harvard and UCSF around serving African-American students. ICEF would certainly like CCSA to acknowledge this area of its work notwithstanding our PCNR position, but, in the absence of any such support, will likely try to paint CCSA's PCNR position as narrow and limited in basis (e.g., performance data only) and not a look at how the school is serving the community and under-served African American students.

LA County

- Superintendent Duardo rescheduled a meeting with LACOE-authorized charter school leaders for Thursday, January 24.

Personnel:

- **Myrna Castrejón officially started at CCSA this week.**

- **Luis Figueroa joined the LA RA team this week and immediately got to work supporting strike efforts. Once we get through the strike, we will be reassessing team leads on work streams. Stay tuned!**